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Region

Serving 59 public
school districts and
47 state-approved
private schools in

Adams County
Ferry County
Lincoln County
Pend Oreille County
Spokane County
Stevens County
Whitman County

Educational Service
District 101 is an
equal opportunity/
affirmative action
employer



EPA's "Tools for Schools" Program in Schools – Eric Dickson

The EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (TfS) Program is "a nationwide initiative to help school officials improve student health and productivity through addressing, resolving, and preventing IAQ problems". The program involves a general walk-through of school buildings which identifies potential or existing IAQ issues. The Tools for Schools program also encourages IAQ committees in each school and explains who should be on it and how to make it effective. An "Action Kit" containing information, checklists, forms, and a video on ventilation basics is also supplied to schools.

Building walk-throughs include:

- Measuring carbon dioxide (CO₂) to determine the effectiveness of the ventilation system.
- Measure for proper pressurization of buildings/classrooms
- Looking for outside sources that may affect the indoor air quality (vehicles, system exhausts, etc.).
- Measure carbon monoxide (CO) in boiler rooms, kitchens, etc.
- Looking for unvented copiers, laminators, etc. that can emit VOCs or ozone.
- Visual allergy triggers (couches in classrooms, animals, dry-erase markers, etc.).
- Visible evidence of water leaks.

Initial walk-throughs of schools in EPA's Region 10 have been conducted by Rich Prill or Dave Hales (WSU) from EPA grants. All of ESD 101 schools have had an initial TfS walk-through (from 2001 through 2003). Several of our districts have asked me to conduct a follow-up TfS walk-through since then.

The EPA Tools for Schools program has offered an Indoor Air Quality Symposium in Washington, D.C., every year since 2000. Washington State consistently has one of the largest contingencies at the symposium each year. These are free to participants through many sponsoring agencies and organizations. Since 2000, over 100 schools, school districts and ESDs have been recognized for their accomplishments in improving the indoor air quality in their buildings.

ESD 101 received the Special Achievement Award in 2001. Other Washington State school districts and agencies receiving an award since 2000 are: Sedro-Wooley, Everett, NW Air Pollution Authority, WSU Cooperative Extension, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Bellingham, Spokane, Kent, Vashon Island, Anacortes, Moses Lake, and Seattle. East Valley (Spokane) received recognition for their student IAQ team in 2005.